REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 1-50 and 53-58 have been deleted and Claims 59-80 added. Consequently, Claims 51, 52 and 59-80 are presently in the case.

Applicant's counsel would initially like to thank Examiners Ferguson and Hirshfeld for the time and consideration extended to Applicant's counsel in the phone interview of April 13, 2005. This Response is being filed pursuant to that discussion.

General Arrangement of Claims

Applicant has kept original Claims 51 and 52 in the Application which were indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Despite the allowance of additional claims (objected to claims) in the Application, Applicant has merely recast the original claims to bring out the more salient features of the invention.

Applicant has replaced original apparatus Claims 1-28 and kit Claims 29-44 with new kit Claims 59-70 and replaced original method Claims 45-50 and 53-58 with new method Claims 71-80. A further breakdown of the new claims can be described thusly:

Claims 59-64: A Kit for any Number of Frame Holders (Generic)

Claims 65-70: A Kit for a Pair (2) Frame Holders

Claims 71-75: A Method for any Number of Frame Holders (Generic)

Claims 76-80: A Method for a Pair (2) of Frame Holders

No new matter has been added by the presentation of these new claims.

Brief Discussion of Invention

As discussed with the Examiners, the shims of the present invention are generally uniform so as to uniformly and evenly lift the frame from the item to be printed upon. They act as spacers to increase the physical distance between the item to be printed upon and the frame holding the screen. The kit, or method, permit this to be done in a controlled and precise manner.

By way of example, in a system having two (2) frame holders, each set or pair of shims are used simultaneously with one shim from each set being used with each frame holder.

Thus, two (2) sets of shims (the sets are designated X and Y) can be used with the two (2) frame holders three (3) different ways:

Frame Holder 1		Frame Holder 2
	Combination 1	
X		X
	Combination 2	
Y		Y
	Combination 3	
XY		XY

Three (3) sets of shims (the sets are designated X, Y and Z) can be used with the two (2) frame holders six (6) different ways:

Frame Holder 1		Frame Holder 2
	Combination 1	
X		X
	Combination 2	
Y		Y
	Combination 3	
Z		Z
	Combination 4	
XY		XY
	Combination 5	
XZ		XZ
	Combination 6	
YZ		YZ

Brief Discussion of Prior Art

The prior art of record are wedge shaped, having a varying thickness, as opposed to having a generally uniform thickness. Next, the shims of the prior art are used to secure something to another and to tighten the fastening between components. More specifically, the shims of the prior art are used in a gap between two pieces to urge against the two pieces by filing in the gap (with the wedge and the wedging action) to enhance the locking or securing of the two pieces to one another and reduce any play between them.

Turning to the art cited by the Examiner in the Office Action –

Oleson (US 5,953,987) – Merely shows the removable screen frame 10 supported within a frame holder's two flanges 23. The frame holder 23 has a clamp bar 24 with thumb screws 25. Turning the thumb screw 25 urges the frame 10 against the lower flange 23 to secure the frame into position. It should be noted that Oleson is owned by the Assignee of the present Application. Indeed, the development of the present application is intended to work with the frame holders shown in Oleson. Note that Oleson does not talk about, show, teach or suggest the use of shims.

Holderegger (US 5,437,925) shows a L-shaped shim 19 having a tapered section used between a screen plate 4 and the throat/body of a bolt 17 to urge against the top of the plate 4 and the bolt head 17 thus ensuring the bold holds the plate without any play in place against the support band 16. (See Figures 4-6).

Elliott et al. (US 2004/0244172) merely shows a threaded bolt 26 connected to a rivet nut 14.

Williams (US 5,979,312) merely shows compensation shims 28-31 of different length. They can be customized plates.

Conclusion

Clearly none of the references cited or applied by the Examiner suggest the use of shims or spacers of the type or in the manner as disclosed here by Applicant. Applicant's kit and method distinguish over the prior art.

In light of the changes above, Applicant believes all of the claims now patentably distinguish over the cited art.

The Examiner and Commissioner are hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this Response or refund any overpayments associated with this Response to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

In view of the above, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance; an action to this end is earnestly requested. If it would expedite the progress of this Application through the examination process, the Examiner is authorized to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11 May 2005 By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Assignment Recordation Services, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on May 11, 2005.

Kathleen Rundquist

Kathleen Rundquist/222830